

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system, said computer system comprising:
a housing for enclosing various components of the computer system;
a microprocessor disposed inside said housing and configured to control operation of said computer system, said microprocessor producing or receiving monitored events while controlling operation of said computer system;
a data storage device disposed inside said housing; and
a light system disposed inside said housing and ~~configured to provid[e]~~ing a dynamic light effect based on the monitored events, said dynamic light effect significantly altering the surface appearance of said housing such that a significant portion of said housing itself and not said light system provides visual indication of the monitored events; ~~and~~
~~a housing containing said microprocessor, said data storage device, and said light system therein;~~
~~wherein said light system provides said housing with a dynamic ornamental appearance.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A computer system as recited in claim 1, wherein the dynamic light effect and therefore the surface appearance of said housing ~~ornamental appearance~~ is multi-colored.
3. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 1, wherein said computing system is a general purpose computer system.
4. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 1, wherein said light system comprises:
a plurality of light elements; and

a light controller operatively connected to said light elements to control said light elements to produce the dynamic light effect based on the monitored events.

5. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 4, wherein said light elements are Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitored events comprise computer status conditions.

8. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 7, wherein the computer status conditions include at least device status conditions or program status conditions.

9. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitored events comprise internal computer status conditions or external status conditions.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for illuminating a housing of a general purpose computer system, said method comprising:

providing a housing for enclosing a device of the general purpose computer system;

monitoring computer system events;

emitting light in accordance with the computer system events, the light being directed towards the housing via a light system disposed inside the housing; and

illuminating at least a [[non-in]]significant portion of the housing of the general purpose computer system with the emitted light, the illumination colorizing or patternizing the surface appearance of the [[non-in]]significant portion of the housing such that the significant portion of the housing itself and not the light system provides visual indication of the monitored computer system events ~~thereby significantly altering the appearance of the housing.~~

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein said illuminating provides said general purpose computer system with a dynamic light effect.
12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein said illuminating provides said general purpose computer system with a dynamic ornamental appearance.
13. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the illumination and thus the surface ~~dynamic-ornamental~~ appearance of the significant portion of the housing is multi-colored.
14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the computer system events are chosen from the group consisting of: processor mode, processor status, data being processed, displayed information, I/O device status, I/O device mode, and program status.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the computer system events are chosen from the group consisting of: removable medium insertion, network connectivity, computer system start-up and computer system shut-down.
17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the computer system includes a microprocessor that operates in one of a plurality of states, and
wherein the computer system events comprise the states of the microprocessor which are chosen from the group consisting of: on, sleep or off.
18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the computer system includes a microprocessor that can recognize a plurality of different program status events, and
wherein the computer system events comprise the program status events which are chosen from the group consisting of: program error, new electronic mail, awaiting input, and loading program

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the general purpose computer system is a desktop computer system.

20. (Currently Amended) A method implemented in a computing device for extending the feel of a screen display to a housing that surrounds the screen display, said method comprising:

sampling a plurality of regions of the screen display to acquire color indicators for the plurality of regions; and

changing the color of one or more regions of the housing based on the color indicators of one or more sampled regions of the screen display in order to extend the feel of the screen display to the housing that surrounds the screen display.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the computing device includes a plurality of light elements located within the housing of the computing device, and

wherein said color change of the housing is implemented by illuminating a plurality of regions of the housing of the computing device based on the color indicators, said illuminating including driving the light elements to illuminate the plurality of the regions of the housing of the computing device.

22. (Original) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein each of the plurality of regions on the screen display that are sampled correspond to one of the light elements.

23. (Original) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of regions on the display screen are associated with a configuration, and wherein the plurality of the regions of the housing being illuminated are associated with the configuration.

24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 21,
wherein the plurality of regions on the screen display are arranged in a first configuration, and

wherein the plurality of the regions of the housing of the computing device are substantially arranged in the first configuration.

25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the number of the plurality of the regions of the housing is the same as the number of the plurality of the regions of the housing of the computing device.

26. (Original) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein each of the light elements is capable of producing colored light.

27. (Original) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein each of the light elements comprises a plurality of different colored Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).

28. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, the computing device is a general purpose computer.

29. (Original) A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the housing of the computing device houses at least the screen display at a front portion thereof, and
wherein the plurality of regions of the housing being illuminated are provided on a rear portion of the housing of the computing device.

30. (Original) A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the housing of the computing device houses at least a microprocessor, memory and input/output ports for the general purpose computer.

31. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the computing device is chosen from the group consisting of: display device, computer base, mobile computing device, printer, copier, and facsimile machine.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of extending the feel of a display screen to a housing that surrounds the display screen, the housing being separated into a plurality of

independent illuminable zones, each of the zones having a light element that is disposed inside the housing in the area of the illuminable zone, said method comprising:

associating regions of the display screen to particular illuminable zones;

determining color indicators for a plurality of regions on the screen display that are associated with the illuminable zones; and

illuminating the illuminable zones of the housing based on the color indicators of the regions associated therewith, the illumination being provided by light from the light element of the particular illuminable zone, the illumination colorizing the illuminable zone of the housing in conjunction with the color of the associated region of said extending the feel of said display screen.

33. (Original) A method as recited in claim 32, the computing device is a general purpose computer.

34. (Currently Amended) A method [[for method]] for illuminating a housing of a computing system, the computing system having a screen display, said method comprising:

providing illuminable regions to the housing around and adjacent the screen display;

mapping illuminable regions of the housing to regions of the screen display;

sampling regions of the screen display to acquire color indicators; and

~~associating the color indicators acquired to a plurality of illuminable regions of the housing of the computing system; and~~

colorizing driving at least one light element at the illuminable regions of the housing in accordance with the acquired color indicators mapped thereto in order to extend the feel of the screen display to the housing, said colorizing including illuminating the illuminable regions with light from one or more light elements located at each of the illuminable regions of the housingthereby illuminating the regions of the housing.

35. (Original) A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the housing of the computing system being illuminated houses at least a microprocessor, memory and input/output ports.

36. (Original) A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the housing of the computing system being illuminated houses at least the screen display.

37. (Original) A method as recited in claim 34, the computing system is a general purpose computer.

38. (Original) A method as recited in claim 34, wherein said method is periodically performed such that the regions of the housing being illuminated are color matched with the regions of the screen display.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling light elements provided internal to a housing [for] that encloses computer system hardware, said method comprising:
monitoring the computer system components to obtain status information;
determining illumination characteristics for the housing based on the status information and predetermined configuration information;
determining driving signals for the internal light elements in accordance with the illumination characteristics; and
controlling the internal light elements using the driving signals, the internal light elements illuminating the housing when operational, the illumination significantly altering the surface appearance of the housing such that a significant portion of the housing itself and not the internal light elements provides visual indication of the status information of the monitored computer system components.

40. (Original) A method as recited in claim 39, wherein each of the light elements comprises a LED.

41. (Original) A method as recited in claim 39, wherein the computer system hardware forms a general purpose computer.
42. (Original) A method as recited in claim 39, wherein the predetermined configuration information is provided by user settings.
43. (Currently Amended) A computer system having a computer device, said computer device including a computer component for performing an operation associated with said computer system, ~~and an illuminable housing~~, said computer system, comprising:
- an illuminable housing that encloses said computer component;
 - an event monitor configured to track a computer event associated with said computer system;
 - a light effect manager operatively coupled to said event monitor, said light effect manager being configured to generate light control signals when said computer event is executed by said computer system; and
 - a light arrangement operatively coupled to said light effect manager and disposed in said housing, said light arrangement being configured to illuminate said illuminable housing ~~so as to dynamically change the ornamental appearance of said housing~~ in accordance with said light control signals associated with said computer event, said illumination significantly altering the surface appearance of said illuminable housing such that a significant portion of said illuminable housing itself and not said light arrangement provides visual indication of the computer event.
44. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 43, wherein said computer component is one of a processor or controller.
45. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 43, wherein said computer component is one of an operating system, utility program or application program.

46. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 43, wherein said computer event is one of input data or output data.

47. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 43, wherein said light control signal carries illumination characteristics pertaining to the desired light effect that said light arrangement is to provide to said illuminable housing.

48. (Currently Amended) A computer system as recited in claim 43, wherein said light arrangement includes a plurality of light elements that produce the desired light illumination effect.

49. (Currently Amended) A computer system as recited in claim 43, wherein said computer system further includes a second computer device, the second computer device including a second computer component for performing an operation associated with said computer system, and a second illuminable housing that encloses the second computer component.

50. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 49, further including a second light arrangement operatively coupled to said light effect manager and disposed in said second illuminable housing, said second light arrangement being configured to illuminate said second illuminable housing ~~so as to dynamically change the ornamental appearance of said second housing~~ in accordance with said light control signals associated with said computer event, said illumination significantly altering the surface appearance of said second illuminable housing such that a significant portion of said second illuminable housing itself and not said second light arrangement provides visual indication of the computer event.

51. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 50, wherein the first and second light arrangements are configured to illuminate their respective illuminable housings when said computer event is executed by said computer system.

52. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 50, wherein the computer system is a general purpose computer, wherein the first computer device is a base of the general purpose computer, and wherein the second computer device is a peripheral device coupled to the base.

53. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein the peripheral device is selected from a monitor, a keyboard, a mouse, a speaker, a disk drive or a printer.

54. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 50, wherein the computer system is a computer network, and wherein the first computer device is a first computer-based system and the second computer device is a second computer-based system, both of which are connected to the computer network.

55. (Cancelled)